



Residential Solar Choice Rates Overview

The Public Service Commission of South Carolina (PSC) has approved new rooftop solar rates for Duke Energy Carolinas (DEC), Duke Energy Progress (DEP), and Dominion Energy South Carolina (DESC). These rates are available to consumers applying for new service on or after June 1, 2021 and will be available to consumers for the next ten years.

Considering Going Solar?

The ORS encourages consumers to explore all options of renewable energy. However, choosing to go solar is like buying a car— consumers need to do their homework, check prices from several sources, and think carefully about which choice is best for their own individual needs.

Duke Energy <i>Docket Nos. 2020-264-E and 2020-265-E</i>	
Rate	Consumers are charged for electricity they use based on a time-of-use rate.
Minimum Monthly Bill	Minimum monthly bill of \$30.00 Previously, consumers had to pay the basic facilities charge. Consumers will pay an additional \$15.37 (DEP) and \$16.91 (DEC) to meet the minimum monthly bill.
Net Excess Energy Credits	<p>The PSC has not decided the actual rate that a consumer with solar will be paid if they produce more electricity than they use.</p> <p>Until the PSC makes a decision, consumers that produce more electricity than they use will receive a credit on their bill each month. Consumers will get \$0.0270 (DEC) or \$0.0230 (DEP) per kWh produced. If they use more electricity the next month, this credit will be applied to their bill.</p> <p>Once the PSC decides on the permanent rate, consumers will receive a credit on their bill at the end of each year.</p>

Dominion Energy <i>Docket No. 2020-229-E</i>	
Rate	Consumers are charged for electricity they use based on a time-of-use rate.
Minimum Monthly Bill	Minimum monthly bill of \$13.50 Previously, consumers had to pay the basic facilities charge. Consumers will pay an additional \$0.50 to meet the minimum monthly bill.
Net Excess Energy Credits	<p>The PSC has not decided the actual rate that a consumer with solar will be paid if they produce more electricity than they use.</p> <p>Until the PSC makes a decision, consumers that produce more electricity than they use will receive a credit on their bill each month. Consumers will get \$0.03363 per kWh produced. If they use more electricity the next month, this credit will be applied to their bill.</p> <p>Once the PSC decides on the permanent rate, consumers will receive a credit on their bill at the end of each year.</p>



What is a Time-of-Use (TOU) rate?

A time-of-use rate varies the price of electricity depending on the time of day, season, and day type (weekday or weekend/holiday). Higher rates are charged during the on-peak hours (when people are home from work and school in the evenings), and lower rates are charged during off-peak hours (when people are usually away from their homes). The price of electricity is also typically higher in summer months than in winter months.

How does a TOU rate affect consumers with solar?

Solar typically produces electricity during off-peak hours (when the sun is out during the day). When consumers use electricity in the evening (on-peak), they are charged a higher price for the electricity. Consumers with solar may produce enough electricity to cover their usage during on-peak times, but still end up paying a bill because of the higher price to use electricity in the evenings. With a change in electricity usage patterns, such as washing clothes during off-peak times when electricity is cheaper, consumers with solar may reduce their electricity bill.

Impact to consumers that do not have solar

Non-solar consumers could see a change in their bills when the company has its next rate hearing and the cost to provide service is evaluated.

South Carolina Energy Freedom Act

Act 62, known as the South Carolina Energy Freedom Act, was passed in 2019. This Act addresses topics focused on renewable energy and net energy metering.

- Customer-generators who applied for net metering before May 16, 2019, will receive credit at the full retail electric rate until December 31, 2025.
- Customer-generators who applied for net metering between May 16, 2019 and May 31, 2021, will receive credit at the full retail electric rate until May 31, 2029.
- Beginning June 1, 2021, "Solar Choice Metering Tariffs" will apply to new customer-generators.

About the Office of Regulatory Staff

The ORS represents consumers of investor-owned utilities in South Carolina before the PSC. The PSC is the state agency that sets utilities' rates. The ORS must look at the impact to the consumer and utilities' continued investment in reliable and high-quality services.